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Control System

Approved For Release 2001/08/31 : CIA-RDP79B01709A001500020043-8

chono

24 April 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR: [REDACTED], SOC

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SUBJECT : COMIREX Comments on Reliability and Backup Paper

The following comments pertain to the draft of the reliability and backup paper attached to [REDACTED]'s memorandum of 9 April 1974.

25X1A

Pages two and three: The analogies provided have serious limitations:

A. All three systems mentioned were designed and first produced during a period when the pool of experience and the state of technology were significantly less developed. To not take cognizance of these advances can lead to misleading conclusions. By way of illustration, imagine the errors in our estimates of on-launch and on-orbit failures in the [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] programs if the records of CORONA and early [REDACTED] had been used for forecasting without adjustment for the changed environment.

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B. Use of the [REDACTED] record as a forecasting tool seems incongruent with the [REDACTED] launch and performance estimates shown on page seven. If these estimates are in the ball park, the [REDACTED] experience would seem to be analogous to a worst-case situation, and if this is the case, it should be labeled as such rather than as a "reasonable basis for planning backup in the transitional period." Incidentally, it is my recollection that the original [REDACTED] program embraced a three-ball system.

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EXEMPT FROM GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION
SCHEDULE OF E.O. 11652, EXEMPTION CATEGORY:
§ 5B(1). <u>1</u> , <u>2</u> or (3) (circle one or more)
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[REDACTED] 2244-74

25X1A

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25X1A

C. While [REDACTED] embraces considerable advanced technology, it is in important respects simpler than [REDACTED] and the operation of many of its most critical components seems to me to be more easily verifiable with bench testing. If my supposition is correct, the likelihood of encountering serious glitches during final assembly and checkout will be smaller.

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25X1A

D. [REDACTED] is at present well advanced in its development cycle and, consequently, current estimates of its ability to meet its planned schedule carry much more weight than estimates made at the time the program was initiated. If the experiences of the earlier three programs are to be used as guidelines, the operational capabilities forecast 30 months prior to the planned dates should be used for comparison rather than the dates forecast when the programs were initiated.

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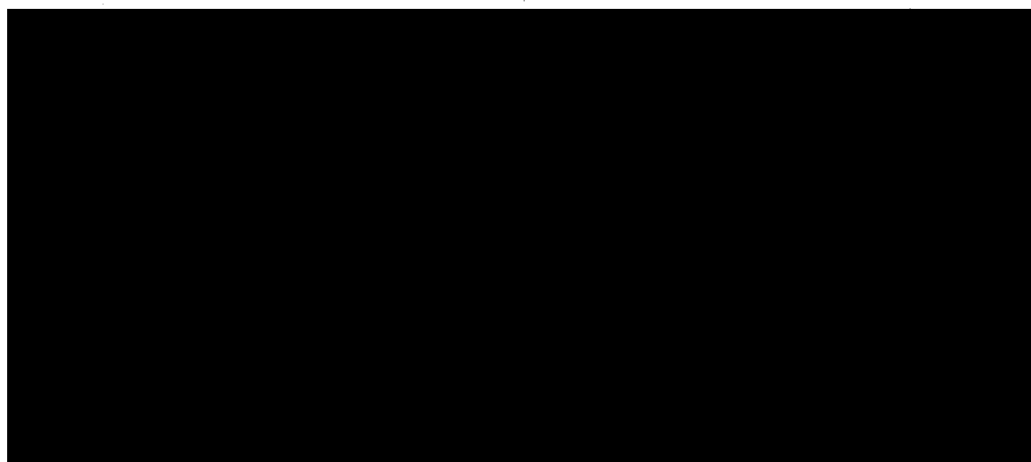
If the past does not furnish useful guidelines, what does? I believe that the transition overlap period should be estimated on the basis of hard-nosed, soul-searching analysis of the status of the [REDACTED] program and the uncertainties remaining and careful review of the costs associated with maintaining film-return-system programs that otherwise would be modified or terminated.

Page four, first paragraph: In the third line from the bottom, put "imagery" in front of "system" unless it can be demonstrated that the statement is valid for [REDACTED].

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Discussion of backup: The discussion is incomplete insofar as it fails to point up such important practical considerations as:

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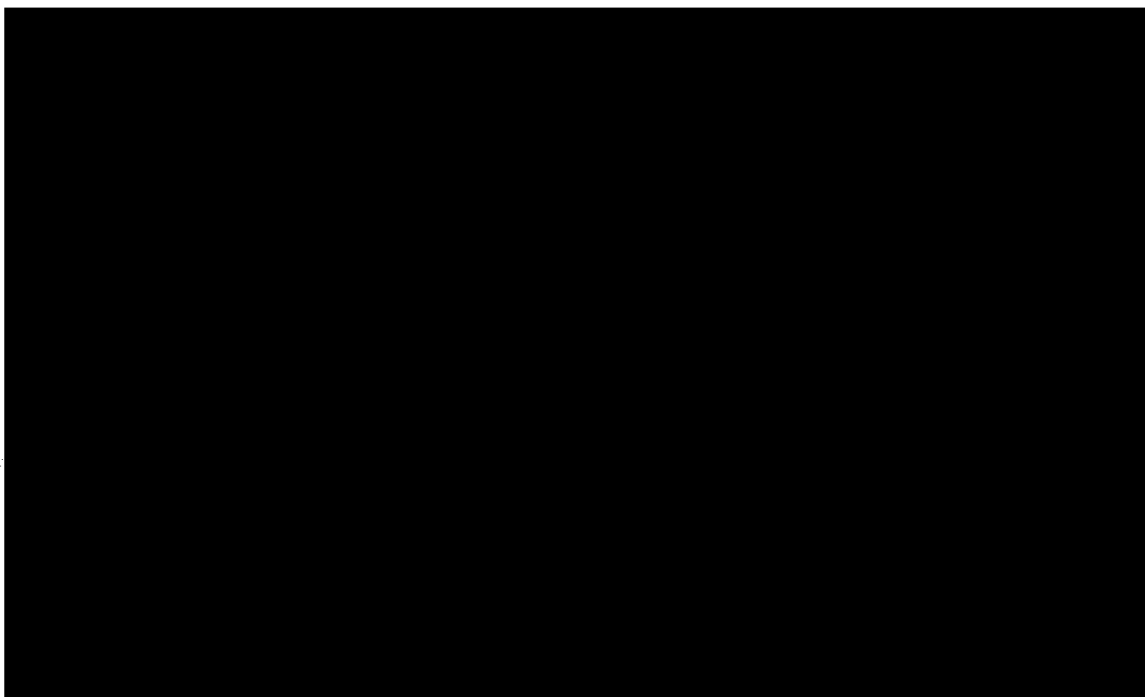
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Page eight, last sentence: Were this sentence to carry, the [REDACTED] procurement rate agreed on in 1974 would have to be sustained until 1979 or 1980. We are unwilling to commit ourselves to this.

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COMIREX Staff

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